

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing disconnection of coupling using a device having (i) first and second halves that are mateable to form an opening, said first and second halves each having an inner surface, (ii) a plurality of holes defined in said first and second halves, said plurality of holes including at least one socket hole, wherein the socket hole has a length comprising a first diameter portion and a second diameter portion, the socket hole is enclosed along the first diameter portion and the second diameter portion, the first diameter is less than the second diameter, and the socket hole is defined in one of said first and second halves such that the first diameter portion is proximate the inner surface of said one of said first and second halves, and (iii) at least one threaded hole defined in the other of said first and second halves, and (iv) at least one threaded fastener, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) fitting said first and second halves directly over said coupling, such that said coupling is disposed in said opening,
- (b) aligning said socket hole with said threaded hole,

(c) inserting said threaded fastener into said socket hole and threadedly engaging said threaded fastener with said threaded hole.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said at least one threaded fastener is threadedly engaged with said threaded hole using a thin-wall deep socket.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing disconnection of a coupling comprising the steps of: providing a device for shielding the coupling having a first section and a second section mateable with each other to form a cover for the coupling, the cover defining an opening therethrough, each section having a first flange extending from a first peripheral edge and a second flange extending from a second peripheral edge, the first and second flanges of each section defining a cavity; and

fitting said first and second halves ~~halves~~ sections directly over said coupling, such that the coupling is partially positioned enclosed ~~at least partially~~ in the cavity.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the first and second sections comprise first and second halves.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~18~~ 17, wherein the device further comprises a plurality of holes defined

through said first and second halves sections, said plurality of holes comprising:

a socket hole, said socket hole being defined in one of said first and second halves sections; and

a threaded hole defined in the other of said first and second halves sections, said threaded hole being opposed to said socket hole.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~18~~ 17, wherein said device further comprises:

(a) a plurality of holes defined through said first and second halves sections, said plurality comprising:

(i) a first socket hole defined in one of said first and second halves sections,

(ii) a first threaded hole defined in the other of said first and second halves sections and opposed to said first socket hole,

(iii) a second socket hole defined in one of said first and second halves sections,

(iv) a second threaded hole defined in the other of said first and second halves sections and opposed to said second socket hole,

wherein said first and second socket holes are defined on opposite sides of said opening and wherein each socket hole is aligned with a corresponding threaded hole; and

(b) two threaded fasteners, wherein each threaded fastener respectively engages one of said socket holes and threadedly engages the aligned threaded hole.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said first socket hole and said second threaded hole are defined in said first section half, and wherein said second socket hole and said first threaded hole are defined in said second section half.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said first and second socket holes are defined in said first section half, and wherein said first and second threaded holes are defined in said second section half.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein each half section has a middle portion and opposite ends extending therefrom, and wherein said plurality of holes are respectively defined in said opposite ends of each half section.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein at least one of said two threaded fasteners has a non-hexagonal head.

25. (Canceled)

26. (New) A method of preventing disconnection of an odometer cable coupling, comprising:

(a) providing an odometer cable coupling;

(b) providing a device having first and second sections that are mateable to form an opening, said first and second sections each having an inner surface and a plurality of holes, said plurality of holes including (i) at least one socket hole, wherein the socket hole has length comprising a first diameter portion and a second diameter portion, the socket hole is enclosed along the first diameter portion and the second diameter portion, the first diameter is less than the second diameter, and the socket hole is defined in one of said first and second sections such that the first diameter portion is proximate the inner surface of said one of said first and second sections, (ii) at least one threaded hole defined in the other of said first and second halves, and (iii) at least one threaded fastener;

(d) fitting said first and second sections directly over said coupling, such that said coupling is disposed in said opening;

(b) aligning said socket hole with said threaded hole;
and

(c) inserting said threaded fastener into said socket hole and threadedly engaging said threaded fastener with said threaded hole.

27. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein said at least one threaded fastener is threadedly engaged with said threaded hole using a thin-wall deep socket.

28. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the coupling is an odometer cable coupling.

29. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the coupling is an odometer cable coupling.

30. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the first and second sections each have an inner surface, the socket hole has a length comprising a first diameter portion and a second diameter portion, the first diameter is less than the second diameter, and the first diameter portion is located proximate the inner surface of said one of said first and second sections.

31. (New) A method of preventing the disconnection of a coupling, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a coupling;

(b) providing a device having a first section and a second section mateable with each other to form a cover for the coupling, the cover defining an opening therethrough, each section having a first flange extending from a first peripheral edge and a second flange extending from a second peripheral edge, the first and second flanges of each section defining a cavity, wherein the device has at least one threaded fastener and a plurality of holes defined through said first and second sections, said plurality of holes comprising:

(i) a socket hole, said socket hole being defined in one of said first and second sections; and

(ii) a threaded hole defined in the other of said first and second sections, said threaded hole being opposed to said socket hole;

(c) fitting said first and second sections directly over said coupling, such that the coupling is at least partially positioned in the cavity; and

(d) inserting said threaded fastener into said socket hole and threadedly engaging said threaded fastener with said threaded hole.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the first section and the second section each have an inner surface, the socket hole has a length comprising a first diameter portion and a second diameter portion, the socket hole is enclosed along the first diameter portion and the second diameter portion, the first diameter is less than the second diameter, and the first diameter portion is located proximate the inner surface of said one of said first and second sections.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said at least one threaded fastener is threadedly engaged with said threaded hole using a thin-wall deep socket.

34. (New) A method of preventing the disconnection of a coupling, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a device having first and second sections that are mateable to form an opening, the device comprising first

and second threaded fasteners and a plurality of holes defined through said first and second sections, wherein the plurality of holes includes (i) a first socket hole defined in said first section, (ii) a first threaded hole defined in said second section, (iii) a second socket hole defined in said second section, and (iv) a second threaded hole defined in said first section, wherein said first and second socket holes are defined on opposite sides of said opening;

(b) fitting said first and second sections directly over the coupling, such that the coupling is disposed in said opening;

(c) aligning said first socket hole with said first threaded hole;

(d) aligning said second socket hole with said second threaded hole;

(e) inserting said first threaded fastener into said first socket hole and said first threaded hole and threadedly engaging said first threaded fastener with said first threaded hole; and

(f) inserting said second threaded fastener into said second socket hole and said second threaded hole and threadedly engaging said second threaded fastener with said second threaded hole.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said coupling is an odometer cable coupling.

36. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the first section and the second sections each have an inner surface, the first and second socket holes each have a length comprising a first

diameter portion and a second diameter portion, the first and second socket holes are each enclosed along their respective first diameter portion and second diameter portion, each socket hole's first diameter is less than that socket hole's respective second diameter, and each socket hole's first diameter portion is located proximate the inner surface of the section in which that socket hole is defined.

37. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the socket hole has an opening proximate the second diameter portion, the threaded fastener defines a head, and wherein the step of inserting said threaded fastener comprises inserting said threaded fastener such that said head does not protrude through said opening.

38. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein said coupling is an odometer cable coupling.